MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

MEMBERS OF WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

WESTERN QUAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT
Western quail (California [Callipepla californica], scaled [Callipepla squamata], Montezuma [Cyrtonyx montezumae], Mountain [Oreortyx pictus], Gambel's [Callipepla gambelii] and Masked bobwhite [Colinus virginianus ridgwayi]), are socially and economically important wildlife species in the western United States. Despite their importance, management of western quail has a varied history and quail management and research has received inconsistent attention. As a whole, the species-group lacks consistent population indices, and most biologists acknowledge quail habitat is threatened due to a multitude of factors that have not all been adequately identified. Additional emphasis on consistent population indices, identification of threats and implementation of more habitat management for western quail would benefit quail populations and the public who enjoy them.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a cooperative agreement to improve management and implement strategies for conservation of western quail and their habitats.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT
The Western Quail Management Plan was developed under the auspices of the Resident Game Bird Working Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and was published in 2009. All state wildlife agencies that have western quail assisted in writing the plan. The Western Quail Management Plan has been endorsed by both AFWA and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).

The parties of this agreement intend to work cooperatively to implement the recommended habitat objectives and management recommendations outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan. Management of western quail and their habitats has traditionally been accomplished on a relatively small, local scale. Management across state boundaries will improve management and may facilitate broad scale habitat restoration projects.

The parties to this agreement all have management responsibility for western quail populations and the habitats upon which they depend. This agreement does not usurp any statutory authority of any of the individual parties to this agreement or require any party to take action in conflict with statutory authority and responsibility; rather, this agreement is intended to strengthen the
authorities of all entities by developing a cooperative ethic towards implementing the recommended habitat objectives and management recommendations outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan.

3. OBJECTIVES
- Identify and coordinate research needs for western quail and encourage research funding that improves the parties’ ability to manage western quail populations.
- Develop and foster cooperation among the parties to this MOU for managing western quail populations and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Encourage establishment of regional working groups to develop action plans to implement the strategies outlined in the Western Quail Management Plan.
- Encourage all parties to this MOU to identify and prioritize management actions on a regional basis and, where appropriate, to combine funding to accomplish the priority management practices.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Each state/province will take action within their discretion to maintain and enhance quail habitat.
2. All member states will work cooperatively through the Western Quail Working Group to exchange ideas, prioritize research needs, and make every effort to participate.

5. APPROVAL
We the undersigned designated officials do hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding as recommended by resolution at the summer meeting of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at Big Sky, Montana on 20 July, 2011.

Approved
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Date 7-20-11

Approved
California Department of Fish and Game
Date 7-20-11

Approved
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Date 7-20-11

Approved
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Date 7-20-11
Approved 

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Date 9-9-11

Approved 

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Date 7/20/2011

Approved 

Nevada Division of Wildlife

Date 7/20/2011

Approved 

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Date 7/20/11

Approved 

New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Date 7/20/2011

Approved 

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date 7/20/2011

Approved 

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Date 7/20/11

Approved 

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Date 7/20/2011

Approved 

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date 7/20/2011